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Industry's future

Top hat ceremony shows needs for skilled workers. Page 4

Science

Students from Port Colborne take part in annual science fair. Page 6

College life

Columist George Duma talks about the end of the school year. Page 9

Get it in Port

New shopping card initiative launched in city. Page 16

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■ SOUPFEST

Mmm ... good

KAESHA FORAND
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The minestrone was hot and the bread was fresh — just what the more than 200 hungry patrons who filled St. Patrick Church Hall were looking for.

see FUNDRAISER | Page 2

■ TOP HAT: Shipping season underway

Marine industry needs students

DAVE JOHNSON
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Algoma Central Corp. and St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. share a long history together. And for that history to continue, the industry will need an influx of new workers, the president and chief executive officer of Algoma said last Thursday.

"We have been operating vessels on the Great Lakes for 110 years — we also have a long history with the City of Port Colborne, as we have owned a local repair firm, Fraser Marine and Industrial, for almost 40 years," said Greg Wight.

This year marks the 52nd season for the seaway and the 181st year for the Welland Canal. Wight was speaking at Lakeshore Catholic High School, where the city's annual canal-opening top hat ceremony was held.

Mayor Vance Badawey said the ceremony was held at the school this year for a couple of reasons — because of the school's specialist high skills major program and because the first downbound ship — the Algecoat — had been stuck in ice near Sarnia and wasn't expected to arrive in the city until late afternoon.



Capt. Dennis Keating, of the Algecoat, tips his top hat while chief engineer Cindy Martin and Mayor Vance Badawey look on. The Algecoat, part of the Algoma Central Corp. fleet, was the first downbound vessel through the Welland Canal last week.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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■ FUNDRAISER: Helping Port Cares

Great turnout for event

FROM PAGE 1

Last Friday's second annual Soup Fest was a noontime feast served up by Port Colborne High School, Lakeshore Catholic High School and Niagara College Culinary Institute students to raise funds for Port Cares, which operates a food bank and provides job retraining and social outreach.

College students served up roasted butternut squash soup and beef barley soup, Lakeshore had an Italian minestrone soup and Port High featured a hearty seafood chowder plus musical entertainment.

Each prepared about 30 litres of soup and fresh bread at their own cost to support Port Cares.

Soup Fest organizer Pam Swick Janjac was pleased with the turnout — 220 people — almost double last year's event.

She was also grateful to the schools for their support.

"It's extremely positive. Everybody loves the soups and bread. It's yummy and homemade," she said, noting that regular supporters of Port Cares were in attendance with supporters from the Welland and St. Catharines areas.

For \$10, patrons were provided beverages, dessert and either small bowls or samplings of soups.

Lakeshore's minestrone soup was in the works for months. The inspiration came from a summer trip to Italy.

Niagara College Chef David Gibson said student apprentice cooks made all their bread. Soup recipes were chosen from the college's recipe bank.

He said feedback from patrons was positive as people experimented with the squash soup topped with pepper and cheddar popcorn.

Lucy Tardil, whose daughter works for Port Cares, showed up with her friend.

"We tried them all," she said, noting her favourite menu item was the seafood chowder, but adding that she enjoyed all the soups. "Students are good and this is very good. We'll come



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo
Brittnee Da Maia and Jenn Tattersall served up seafood chowder and buns during the Port Cares Soup Fest held last Friday at St. Patrick Church hall. More than 200 people attended the event benefiting Port Cares.

again next year."

Port High student Tara Young took pride in the soft rolls served with her school's chowder — she spent days making the bread, tying the dough into knots and glazing them.

She said planning for an event such as Soup Fest "helps you manage under pressure."

Swick Janjac said next year's event has been scheduled for March 25. Each school may be asked to provide two different soups.

It was not immediately known how much money the event raised for Port Cares.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

■ CHESS TEAMS: Lakeshore takes on sister schools

Checkmate

MARYANNE FIRTH

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Concentration and strategy are key to take home the gold.

With an intense stare towards pieces on a recognizable checkered board, members of Lakeshore Catholic High School's chess teams had the concentration down pat.

To work on their strategy, the Gators welcomed students from Notre Dame, St. Michael and St. Paul high schools for a play-down tournament last Thursday.

The tournament was good practice for all the teams, who will meet again for the Niagara Catholic secondary school chess championships in April.

Niagara Catholic annually hosts chess tournaments for students from Grade 3 to 12, said tournament convener Andy Cipro.

This year, more than 1,100 students will participate in the board's nine tournaments in March and April.

Ninety-six high school chess enthusiasts competed at Lakeshore Thursday in the second of two play-down tournaments in preparation for the board championship. The first tournament, featuring Niagara Catholic's northern high schools, was held earlier in the week.

The daylong championship showdown takes place April 6 at John Michael's Banquet and Conference Centre in Thorold.

Each of the board's eight high schools submit a team of six players for each grade.

The winning team at each grade level receives a championship trophy, Cipro said.

Also handed out is the Terry Goldwin Catholic Leadership Award, presented to one Grade 12 student who best exemplifies "true Catholic leadership."

Lakeshore's Grade 12 team is hoping to take home the gold for the fourth consecutive year. The six-member team has been taking the top spot each year since it began competing in Grade 9.

The secret to the team's success: "good chessistry, good core chess players," said coach Jeff Martin.

Martin said the game has become increasingly popular at the school.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Grade 12 Lakeshore Catholic student Brian Domenicucci mentally maps out his next move while waiting for his competitor to take his turn.

"When we started the teams, I didn't realize how many students were interested in chess."

The strategic nature of the game is what often draws students in, he said.

At the end of the day Thursday, Lakeshore's Grade 9 and Grade 12 teams took first place in their grades. St. Paul placed first for Grade 10 and St. Michael for Grade 11.

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■ **HIGH SCHOOL:** Specialist high skills program offers opportunities in different trades

Algoma CEO says company needs skilled workers

FROM PAGE 1

"Today will showcase the ability our local high schools have in preparing the next generation's workforce while hearing first hand from some of the largest contributors to Niagara's economy — the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. and Algoma Central Corp. — of what their needs are today and will be in the future," said Badawey.

Regional Coun. Bob Saracino also spoke at the ceremony and presented a plaque to Wight on behalf of Niagara Region.

Niagara Catholic District School Board education director John Crocco and Lakeshore principal Dan DiLorenzo said the Catholic board's specialist high skills major program gives students many opportunities to learn and practise all sorts of trades before they even leave high school. The program is also offered by District School Board of Niagara at Port Colborne High School.

DiLorenzo encouraged Lakeshore students to look at a career in the shipping industry.

Wight was pleased to learn the mayor and city had partnered with the high school to promote the shipping industry as a career opportunity. He said there are jobs in the marine industry and added Algoma needs skilled personnel to ensure its future survival.

"To stress how important recruitment is to Algoma I would like to quote from a section in our 2009 annual report titled Risks and Uncertainties," said Wight, who noted the company has 1,500 employees.

"The long-term concern remains that the marine industry will continue to need skilled personnel. There are a limited number of training schools available to the industry and the industry faces competition from other sectors to attract and retain good employees. A lack of shipboard staff could lead to service delays and outages. The corporation is working with the industry and educators to expand training programs to ensure an adequate supply of labour will be available to meet its future needs."

"We are looking to groups like yourselves to be the future leaders in our company and in the marine industry," Wight told students.

While Algoma is looking to its future, so, too, are the city and St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

Sean Aubry-Morin, the seaway's vice-president of corporate sustainability, said 2009 was a challenging year for the corporation. The tonnage of transit that moved through the system, which stretches from Montreal to Thunder Bay, was down 25% last year compared to 2008. Just more than 30 million tonnes of goods were transported through the canal in 2009.

"We're looking to 2010 with much optimism and believe we'll have 34 million tonnes move through the system," he said. The seaway company is always investing money to improve its operations and infrastructure. Aubry-Morin said. The corporation will be investing \$200 million over the next 12 years to renew its infrastructure.

Also, the Seaway is testing vessel transit at a deeper draft within existing channels. Utilizing advanced software, satellite navigation and high-resolution charts of the channel bottom, some vessels are being permitted to transit at a draft of 26-foot-9 on a trial basis.

The deeper draft, which increases the amount of cargo a ship can carry, may be extended to the Welland Canal.

"It can help the economy and bring better prospects for the future of the Seaway," said Aubry-Morin, adding Port Colborne has a critical role to play in the future of the Seaway as well.



Badawey said the opening of the canal helps signify south Niagara as a gateway to a new economy. "The government of Ontario has specifically identified the Niagara Region as the location of the only Gateway Economic Zone and a Gateway Economic Centre in the province. A gateway is a geographic area through which significant incoming and outgoing transport/trade flows are distributed by means of transfer and transshipment. Situated at a point of entry, a gateway is what brings together intermodal transport connections, through which flows pass and are dispatched around the continent by a variety of transportation modes," the mayor said.

Shipping and the marine industry are important aspects of the gateway concept and Port Colborne has a great connection to the canal and industry overall. In fact, the breakfast before the ceremony was sponsored by West Pier Marine and Industrial Supply Inc., a marine supply company. The mayor said there are many shipping- and marine-related businesses in the city which rely on the canal and shipping companies, such as Algoma.

The top hat ceremony, Badawey said, shows the community's "appreciation for the industry's contribution to the overall economy within our community and the region."

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

In the top photo, crew members onboard the Algoest look to the canal wall as the ship gets ready to dock to pick up supplies and to take part in a top hat ceremony last week. Right: An Algoest crew member looks down the canal as Lower Lakes Towing's vessel Robert S. Pierson heads underneath Bridge 21, the Clarence Street Bridge.



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■ ourview

Looking to the marine industry's future

Last week's annual Top Hat ceremony was a departure from ceremonies of years past.

This year, the event was held at Lakeshore Catholic High School's auditorium, not at Lock 6 Park as it usually is.

While some might question the decision to locate the event at the school and not the canal, it actually made sense to do so this year.

Algonia Central Corp. president and chief executive officer Greg Wight said for company needs skilled personnel to ensure its future survival.

"The long-term concern remains that the marine industry will continue to need skilled personnel. There are a limited number of training schools available to the industry and the industry faces competition from other sectors to attract and retain good employees. A lack of shipboard staff could lead to service delays and outages. The corporation is working with the industry and educators to enhance training programs to ensure an adequate supply of labour will be available to meet its future needs," Wight said, quoting from the company's annual report.

That supply of future labour was sitting in the auditorium last week.

Students from all grades listened to Wight speak, and others, about the marine industry.

"Today will showcase the ability our local high schools have in preparing the next generation's workforce while hearing first hand from some of the largest contributors to Niagara's economy — the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. and Algonia Central Corp. — of what their needs are today and will be in the future," said Mayor Vance Bradway.

Bradway was talking about the specialist high skills marine program, which Lakeshore and Port Colborne High School both offer.

The program offers students a chance to take classes and learn and practice all sorts of trades and skills.

Some of the areas include: agriculture, construction, horticulture and landscaping, hospitality and tourism, information and communications technology and manufacturing.

With an opportunity like this, students can find out whether what they are taking is something they might want to do once they leave high school.

And it gives them a good base if they do decide to pursue a career in one of those fields.

With companies like Algonia saying they need the students of today to be the workers of tomorrow, we hope the students at Lakeshore, and those at Port High and beyond, were listening.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

That an important heart transplant

GARY TOMIUCK

Itinerant Preacher

As we come into the Easter Season we think of Good Friday—the day in which the Lord died upon the cross for our sins. Mark 15:37 says "Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last."

Jesus died there but he no doubt about it—yet some skeptics still persist in saying that He faked his own death. If Jesus was not already dead upon the cross then He certainly was shortly after. For when one of the Roman Soldiers thrust his spear into the Lord's heart blood and water flowed out. (John 20:34).

The Lord's heart stopped beating.

This heart stoppage has taken on greater significance for me due to my dad's recent triple by-pass surgery.

Sometimes the doctor's will have to stop the patient's heart and then reactivate it later. Sometimes their hearts will not beat again and they pass away on the operating table. Thankfully, my father's heart started beating again and thankfully my heavenly Father's heart started beating again as well.

If there was no birth there could be no death and no death... no resurrection equals no hope. Why do we need new hearts?

1. Our hearts are sick: Isaiah speaks of them as covered with sores that are not bound up. (Isa. 1:5-6)

2. Our hearts are dead: It says in Ephesians 2:5—"Even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead."

3. Our hearts are like stone: In Ezekiel, God says through his Prophet "That He will take out the heart of stone and put in a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 11:19), this is short hand for Spiritual surgery.

Dr. Christen Bernard successfully performed the world's first human heart transplant. I am sure that the success rate is much higher today. But the Lord Jesus as the great physician has a 100% success rate for those who repent and put their faith and trust in Him.

4. Our hearts will rejoice: When your sins are forgiven,

■ LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks Port Colborne

We would like to thank all those who helped make our 2010 Person to Person campaign a success.

Through the hard work and the gift of time from our coauthors and the generosity of the people of Port Colborne we were able to collect approximately \$11,500.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated Captains who do a lot of work organizing, calling people and writing reports.

Thank you to Port Village Retirement Home for hosting

when you experience this freedom, you cannot help but rejoice. The cross is the center and the circumference of Christianity, and at the heart of our faith is a red substance which is the Lord's shed blood on our behalf. As our substitute Jesus paid the ransom price for our sins. This was more precious, more priceless than silver or gold or any other precious thing. It was a bloody cross, it was an old rugged cross but it was also an empty cross.

1A. Survey the cross: Boast in it, glory in it, and meditate upon it.

2A. Survey yourself: You and I and everyone on planet earth would be lost, helpless and hopeless without the Lord's great sacrifice for us.

3A. Survey the world: Then tell others that they in turn can experience the sheer joy, the certain reality and the blessed assurance of having their sins forgiven.

Why? Why not wait? Why not procrastinate? Because an accident, an illness, or old age itself can result in your heart stopping immediately. Come to the Lord whose heart was stopped for you and in a sense was raised for you. We will all die one day and we will be ushered into eternity. The question is where will you be? When your heart stops beating?

There are only two choices to be made. To Follow Christ or to reject Him. You say I won't decide one way or the other. Then you have already made a decision—a decision not to decide. We will either die in Christ or die in your sins. There is no other way than Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life.

You can be absolutely sure on the authority of God's word that if you confess your sins and invite the Lord into your life, then you will experience that heart transplant.

That all important—new heart transplant which is a new nature, new disposition and a new life.

Countless people have done this before and will continue to do it until the Lord returns.

"Then I Heard Again What Sounded Like The Shout Of A Vast Crowd, Or The Roar Of Mighty Ocean Waves Or The Crash Of Loud Thunder Saying: Praise the Lord! For The Lord our God Almighty Reigns." (Rev. 19:6)

Our Volunteer Appreciation Tea and the staff for the delicious refreshments. Thank you to Buckner's for engraving our Volunteer of the Year Award Plaque.

Port Colborne, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help in raising money for Heart and Stroke research.

Lynne Goulet & Marcel Lunt, Heart and Stroke Foundation Port Colborne Person to Person Zone Leaders

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The Retrievers of Group 1



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOGS LIFE

The retriever breeds started to be developed back in the 18th and 19th century.

We have five retriever breeds. The oldest breed is the Curly-coated Retriever. Next came the Flat-coated Retriever and the Chesapeake Bay Retriever. Two of our most popular breeds of dogs for all activities are the Golden Retriever and the Labrador Retriever.

The Curly-coated Retriever has definite tight curls over his body, ears, and neck. This coat is great for water retrieving but is not so easy to keep nice for a family pet. He is an excellent retriever with great endurance and makes a wonderful hunting dog.

The Flat-coated Retriever will remind you of a black Golden Retriever.

They were very popular for hunting dogs in the 1800's but they became less popular as the

Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers were used more. Today, they make great obedience dogs and family pets but are also still wonderful hunting dogs too.

The Golden Retriever were originally black. But liver, brown and yellow colours started to appear in litters and became more popular.

Through the 19th century the golden colour was developed and the black, liver, and browns disappeared. This is why today we still have different shades of colour from pale cream to rust colours. But the real golden honey colour is the most popular colour for the show ring and the family pet home.

The Golden Retriever is famous for having a very "soft" mouth so that anything that he retrieved in it's mouth didn't have any teeth marks in it. The Golden Retriever loves to carry almost anything in its mouth. They are great with other dogs, people and especially children and babies. Golden Retrievers should never show any signs of aggression with dogs or people.

The Labrador Retriever was started in Canada but was mostly promoted and developed in Eng-

land. Hunters love the Labs short coat. The Labrador Retriever loves to be worked on land or in water in all weather conditions. They are very lively puppies that are always on the move. They love children and babies. They need obedience training at an early age to control the high energy. They do very well in all dog sports. With a strong desire to please, they make excellent seeing eye guide dogs and helper dogs. The Labrador Retriever can be black, brown

or yellow in colour.

The Chesapeake Bay Retriever had an interesting start. The first two dogs were rescued from a shipwreck off the coast of Maryland in 1807. Both pups had a great talent for retrieving.

These dogs were crossed with local dogs to develop the Chesapeake Bay Retriever with a wavy coat and very strong retrieving instinct.

The coat has an oily feel and smell to it. This oily feature makes

him an excellent cold water retriever. So he became a favourite hunting dog but he is not as popular as a family pet.

Next time: The Setters of Group 1.

Don and Sandie Bingley of *Sandken Kennels in Sheraton have trained dogs and bred Pembroke Welsh, Corgis and Tibetan Spaniels for 35 years. They can be reached at 905-894-4945.*

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■ **SCIENCE:** Students' projects are more advanced these days

Niagara's best science projects on display

KAESHA FORAND
InPort News Staff

ST. CATHARINES — Gone are the days of science projects documenting how quickly mould develops on bread or how quickly beans will sprout.

Science projects of the 21st century explore how quickly pills dissolve, green technology and pneumatic pressure. Last weekend, 212 of Niagara's best science projects

were on display at Brock University for the 48th Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair for English- and French-speaking students.

Larry Hubbers, science fair committee member, said the committee has seen an increase in francophone school participation and more advanced projects with a greater focus on renewable energy.

"We're looking for an understanding of the scientific process and depth of knowledge of the subject matter,"

Students were divided into Grades 5 and 6, Grade 7 and 8, Grade 9 and 10 and Grade 11 and 12 and presented projects in categories, such as health sciences, life sciences, earth and environmental sciences, computing and information technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences, environmental innovation, engineering and physical and mathematical sciences.

"The bar continues to move up. We see better quality projects at our fair."

Hubbers believes students are more interested in their projects because it's a topic they want to build upon.

Padric Odessa, who is in Grade 5 at Ridley College, explored the simple, but scientific, world of paper airplanes. The Fonthill resident examined how the shape of the airplanes affected their lift.

He made eight different models, placed each on a scale and blew at the planes with a hair dryer to study their lift. He then threw them in the air three times and took the average distance to come to his conclusion.

The "professional" plane went the farthest with triangular-shaped wings "and fins which I believe added to the lift," to help project it 4.83 meters.

"I liked the fact that I got to use paper airplanes," Odessa said of the project.

Having an ice cold cola at your fingertips isn't always possible. Sometimes guests stop by unexpectedly or you run out during a summer barbecue. McKay student Erin Hamilton wanted to learn what the fastest method of cooling a can of soda.

She put cans in the freezer, fridge, in an ice filled cooler and in a cooler filled with ice and water and let them sit for 10 minutes.

see WINNERS | Page 7

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■ **WINNERS:** Those who win head to Peterborough for next competition

'It was fun but boring some times'

FROM PAGE 6

Her hypothesis was confirmed when the pop with the lowest temperature came from the cooler filled with ice and water.

Edna Beaudin wanted to see how coloured light affected plants and their growth. With her father she built boxes with three lights — a regular light, black light and orange light. She made her own Chia Pets by filling nylon with sawdust and grass seeds. To make it more fun, she added faces and let them grow for 35 days.

"Coloured light does not affect growth. They all grew

around 150 millimeters. It was fun but boring some times." Other local projects included the effect of liquid on

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Did you know that sugar is the second largest ingredient in ketchup? The amount of sugar in soda pop is legendary. So, it's not surprising that the number of people with diabetes, heart disease, obesity and other sugar-related diseases are skyrocketing. High blood sugar leads indirectly to more than three million deaths worldwide each year, say researchers who looked at levels linked to heart disease and stroke.

Blood sugar is the amount of glucose in the blood. High blood glucose levels are very toxic and it also can hinder insulin absorption, so cells that don't get glucose, lack the fuel they need. These two problems cause the symptoms of diabetes.

The Harvard School of Public Health



recently concluded blood sugar levels are responsible for one over million diabetes deaths, as well as almost 1.5 million deaths from heart disease and 700,000 deaths from stroke worldwide each year.

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■ **SAYING GOODBYE:** It's time to reflect on an academic year rapidly coming to an end

Riding the cycle of college life



George Duma
BY GEORGE

It's a melancholy time of year at Niagara College, early spring is. Bittersweet perhaps sums it up best.

It pretty much completely flies in the face of what this time of year means to the vast majority of folks.

While all around us the spring season signifies a spiritual and physical reawakening following winter's frost, it's a time at the college to reflect on an academic

year rapidly coming to an end.

This is also the time of year for good-byes to graduating students. Oh, we'll still see them at graduation in June, but they leave now to begin their one-month work-placement co-ops on Monday so, for all intents and purposes, they're gone as of the end of today. This is where the melancholy and the bittersweet come in.

When students arrive in our two-year journalism program for their first year, they are strangers. They come from far and wide, with vastly differing personalities and backgrounds, and the only common denominator is their desire to learn.

We gradually get to know one another. A couple of them may

decide early it's not for them and leave while they can still get their tuition money back. Another one or two realize by the end of the first semester they want to pursue other interests and don't come back in January. Although we're always sorry to see them go, we

understand and we wish them well. The Niagara College journalism program is structured in such a way that teaches first-year students all the tools they will need to succeed in their budding careers. They learn how to write well, how to take good photo-

graphs, how to use a computer to put together good, vibrant newspaper pages in a desktop-publishing environment. They also learn grammar, politics and media law, among other things.

see **STRONG** | Page 10



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Apr. 3 to 15th

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1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly spray baking sheets with non-stick cooking spray. In a medium bowl stir ingredients together with a fork.
2. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter & sugar until creamy. Beat in egg & vanilla. Gradually stir flour mixture into batter mixture to combine. Mix in chocolate chips.

Measure 1 tsp. each of prepared dough on cookie sheets, placing at least 2 inches apart. No need to press down; they spread as they bake. Bake in centre of oven for 8-10 minutes until cookies are golden around the edges. Leave on cookie sheet for 2 minutes, then place on rack to finish cooling. Bake remaining cookies on a cool cookie sheet. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

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Strong bond formed with students

FROM PAGE 9

The second-year students are responsible for producing the college's newspaper, *Niagara News*, throughout the school year. We produce a paper every two weeks during the first semester leading up to Christmas, then after the winter break, we go weekly with the paper.

This system carries on until the second-year students leave for their aforementioned work-placement co-ops for the month of April. At that point, the first-year students take over and are responsible for producing the lone April edition of *Niagara News*. They must piece together all the skills they learned to that

point and now put them into practice.

The system serves two useful purposes — it allows the students to see how their skills practically apply and it gives them an indication of what to expect in their second year when they take over the paper.

While we have student-staffed editing teams, faculty oversees the entire production. I'm the paper's managing editor while my colleague Phyllis Barnatt is the associate managing editor. We also have a number of faculty consultants who help us immensely. These are people like program coordinator Paul Day-boll, who is a master of newspaper production and the computer

programs needed for desktop publishing. Peter Conradi, the managing editor of the *Niagara Falls Review* who comes in part-time and teaches layout and design; Dave Hanuschuk, *The Tribune's* photo editor who comes in on our production days and works with a student photo editor to ensure high-quality photos for each *Niagara News* edition; Nancy Geddle, our grammar maven who ensures our budding wordsmiths get it right; Gary Erb, a beloved teacher in our program and an editorial consultant; and, Kevin Romyn, who supports us in our technology needs and gets the paper out of the building electronically to our printers in Grimsby.

The production flow of the paper utilizes a good system that was in place long before I got to

the college and it works well because of the progression in difficulty. We feel like we're never giving the students more than they can handle or are ready for.

Between formal classes and the production of the newspaper, we spend a lot of time with our students. And it's impossible not to form a strong bond with them.

I genuinely enjoy spending time with all of these young people. They are an absolute delight to be around and working with them — be it in class or on the paper — is sheer joy. Of course it has its challenges, but that's to be expected.

And although there is much that I can teach them during their time at the college, I feel I learn as much from them in return.

So back to the melancholy and the bitterness?

The melancholy is simply that intense, overwhelming feeling I get when I stop to think in cold, hard terms that my time with the second-year students is coming to an end. I am going to miss them terribly. They just become such a huge part of my life during our time together, spiritually and emotionally.

The bitterness? Is just that. The bitter taste comes from their departure, as they spread their wings and prepare to leave the school campus behind.

Oddly enough, the sweet taste comes from the very same source; as they spread those wings and fly away. It's a sweet feeling to know they do so with the skills they need to succeed in their chosen careers. There are also many more sweet feelings to be had, of course. We must now focus our sights almost solely on our first-year students as we prepare the year's final edition of the *Niagara News*. Research and interviews must be carried out, stories must be written, photos must be taken and discussions on how we're going to put it all together must get under way. It's very exciting.

So, as one group of our students comes to the end of its journey with us and prepares for the next phase of life, the other group is almost halfway through with so much more to do and accomplish before that next phase begins. And the cycle continues.

Melancholy and bitterness? Perhaps. But never, ever dull and never, ever anything less than a gratifying, heartwarming, fulfilling experience.

...

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: guma@cogeco.ca

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lb.

FRESH MILK OR GRAIN FED VEAL. FRESH ONTARIO LAMB AVAILABLE FOR EASTER.

Cooking Without Boneless BLACK FOREST HAMS or FOOTBALL HAMS

2⁹⁹
lb.

DELI Specials

SMOKED HAM KOLBASSA **3⁹⁹** lb.

SMOKED FASHIONED HAM **2⁹⁹** lb.

MOZZARELLA CHEESE **4⁹⁹** lb.

FRESH PORK BABY BACK RIBS

1/2 PRICE 3⁹⁹
lb.

CUT FROM ONTARIO ALL BONE IN HEAVY BONELESS NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS

1/2 PRICE 6⁹⁹
lb.

GREEN GIANT VEGETABLES
Peas, Cream Corn, Niblets, Green or Wax Beans
12/14 oz can

\$1
12 can limit

PEPSI Regular or Diet
Case of 12

3/\$10
3 Case Limit

Stoney Creek Dairy ICE CREAM
1.89 litre carton

3/\$10

OASIS TOMATO JUICE
48 oz. can

\$1
Whole Bunches Limit

GREEN GIANT Valley Selections
California, Japanese, Swiss Beef, Bacon & Corn
300/500g bag

2/\$4

CARIBBEAN FROZEN LOBSTER TAILS
8 oz. size

1/2 PRICE 9⁹⁹
While Supplies Last

WESTON DINNER BUNS
2/\$4

WESTON CROSS BUNS
2/\$4

OCEAN SPRAY CRABBER COCKTAIL
1.89 litre

3/\$10

Breton CRACKERS
250g bag

2/\$4

DEAN FINE LARGE SHRIMP
60g bag

9⁹⁹

DEAN FINE JUMBO SHRIMP
25-28 shrimp per lb.
2 lb. bag

19⁹⁹

FRESH CUT FLOWER BOUQUETS \$2.99 AND UP

NO. 1 GRADE CALIFORNIA SWEET RIPE STRAWBERRIES
1 LB. PKG.

1⁹⁹

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO GREENHOUSE TOMATOES
1 LB.

2⁴⁹

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO, LOCAL GROWN ENGLISH CUCUMBERS
1 LB.

99¢

EXTRA FANCY CHILEAN SWEET JUICY GREEN SEEDLESS GRAPES
1 LB.

1⁹⁹

NO. 1 GRADE ONTARIO RAINBOW PACK SWEET PEPPERS
1 LB.

2⁷⁹

NO. 1 GRADE FLORIDA, NEW CROPI MINI POTATOES
RED OR WHITE
1 LB.

99¢

PROMOTING LOCAL

Get it in Port

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — You name it, you can Get it in Port. South Niagara Community Futures Development Corp. has a plan to both target local market development and raise awareness of products and services offered in Port Colborne.

The Get it in Port shopping card initiative will help to "drive existing and new customers into stores," said Gayna Evans, Main St. development co-ordinator with the non-profit corporation.

Evans and downtown development co-ordinator Brendt Sabs presented the initiative to Port Colborne councillors during Monday night's council meeting.

Sabs said the initiative will not only help to get residents into local shops, but create an awareness in surrounding areas of what Port Colborne has to offer.

It will promote Port Colborne as a "destination spot in Niagara to do business," Evans said.

The Get it in Port shopping card will offer a variety of discounts from local participating businesses.

When purchased at a cost of \$20, the customer receives the card as well as a booklet showcasing the different discount offers from participating stores, which are valid for 13 months.

Sabs said the cards will be distributed to local non-profit groups, schools and sports teams to sell as a means for fundraising.

For each \$20 card sold, the selling community group will retain \$10.

"It's a 50/50 revenue split," he said, adding the corporation is anticipating \$20,000 to \$25,000 returning back to the community in the initiative's inaugural year.

Evans said the project is in its "preliminary stage," as the corporation works to bring merchants on board.

Merchant packages will be distributed this week to local businesses in hopes of raising interest, she said.

Business owners can participate at a cost of \$25, promoting their business through the card, booklet and on the Get it in Port website.

Businesses can also sponsor the initiative at a cost of \$350 or \$500, depending on the sponsorship level.

Sponsorship includes printing of the business logo on either the front or back of the card, and printing of the business name on any promotional materials for the year.

In addition, each month the project website will highlight two sponsoring businesses.

"We're excited to roll this out," Evans said.

For more information, contact Evans or Sabs at 905-834-5318, or e-mail getitimport@southniagaracorp.com.

Deadline for participating businesses is April 30.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

IMPROVEMENTS

Fixing up Roselawn

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The stage was recently set for improvements to move forward at the Roselawn Centre Theatre.

Port Colborne council awarded the Roselawn Centre improvements to SDH Inc. at a tender price of \$54,238.

The renovations at Roselawn — which include a new stage in place of the current stage, and new risers for seating — do not affect the building's historical attributes, he said. Chief administrative officer Robert Hell said the risers, which are portable, are considered furniture. The improvements also include the addition of drapery and updated lighting, all which will be portable, he said.